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University of Missouri-St. Louis

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Parking fees to be mandatory under new tuition-fee plan, facing SGA vote on Nov. 30

HUNG NGUYEN
Staff Writer

The university is considering changing from a system in which tuition and fees are listed as separate costs to a system wherein all fees will be listed as a single combined cost per credit hour. The new administration plan was presented at the Student Government Association meeting on Nov. 2. The combined cost would include all currently mandatory fees but also some fees, like parking, that are not currently mandatory. Students will have a chance to vote and voice their thoughts on this possible change at the next SGA meeting on Nov. 30.

The topic was at the center of the Nov. 2 meeting, when the Fee Review Committee, headed by Gustavo Perez, junior, music, SGA vice president, presented

fee increases that were requested by different departments. Also presented was a preliminary breakdown of the new fee structure that was proposed by a number of campus officials.

The new combined cost would include all currently mandatory fees but also some fees, like parking, that are not currently mandatory.

The committee report concluded, however, that students are actually expected to save money next year due to the new fee structure, with the exact amount expected to deviate slightly depending on deliberations that will take place in January.

The new fee structure, if passed, will bundle all mandatory student fees and tuition into a single fee. A number of General Assembly members have expressed strong feelings regarding the inclusion of parking fees as a mandatory charge per credit hour as part of the single fee schedule for all students, regardless of whether or not they anticipate using the campus parking spaces. This represents a departure from the present policy, since parking has always been an optional charge that students could decline. The committee report concluded, however, that students are actually expected to save money next year due to the new fee structure, with the exact amount expected to deviate

slightly depending on deliberations that will take place in January. Perez has indicated that a number of things still need to be figured out, so it is too soon to make any assumptions about why officials are proposing this structure. Perez noted that the committee did not receive the details of this new structure until very close to the last assembly meeting. As a result, a number of questions cannot be addressed with any degree of certainty at this time. The committee acts only as a messenger of this proposed new structure, Perez indicated. "I don't have a voting right, and the committee members all have stand-ins at the next meeting to vote. They are not voting twice. That would be unfair," Perez

explained. "I'm a low-income student, and so I completely sympathize with students who are concerned about these increases, but I had no part in putting the new structure together. Ultimately, we are fortunate to have an administration that's willing to listen. They will make the final decision, but hopefully, what we recommend will enable them to decide what's best for students and the university." The focus of the Nov. 2 meeting was to answer any questions about the committee recommendations and department fee proposals. A number of student comments were tabled to be given more attention at the next meeting, when discussion and voting will be the agenda. According to Perez, if the assembly votes affirmative, the opinions will be presented to Chancellor Tom George, who will then make his recommendation to the Board of Curators for further action. If the vote is negative, the committee will reconvene

(continued on page 3)

Japandroids' sonic hedonism at Firebird makes for perfect escape

DAVID VON NORDHEIM
A&E Editor

From the roughly 1 billion drums in Neil Pert's percussion kit to ZZ Top's intimidating facial hair, rock musicians have always had a love affair with enormity. The long-held dictum that excess

Everything about Japandroids screams "live band." From their hyperkinetic stage presence to their penchant for shattering speakers, touring is not simply a means for King and Prowse to repay production debts to their label; it is their raison d'être.

equals success has undergone a serious revision in recent years, however, as two-member outfits like The White Stripes, The Black Keys and The Kills continue to set the trend for modern rock. The power of duality has quickly become the rule rather than the exception, and the endearingly loud Canadian indie rock twosome Japandroids fits perfectly within the less-is-more aesthetic. Quickly amassing a cult following on the

strength of their 2009 debut "Post-Nothing," vocalist/guitarist Brian King and drummer David Prowse (who throws some supporting yelps into the mix, as well) make an impressive racket given their skeleton crew. The group made their St. Louis debut the same year with a near-blowout of the Billiken Club sound-system. If their sold-out Firebird show last Tuesday is any indication, the wait has only intensified their popularity.

cut their teeth in a variety of similar projects. Though their latest incarnation may just be another detour in their pop punk pilgrimage, it was a nice complement for Japandroids' amplified histrionics. Shortly after the sticky-sweet sounds of Swearin', Japandroids took the stage as returning heroes. The group began their set with a bombastic intro that unfortunately may have been a bit too

signature anthems. The audience's eagerness was contagious and well-deserved. The three years since the Japandroids' last St. Louis performance has transformed King into the epitome of a front-man. Strutting about the stage in formidably tight trousers, King gave a ferociously energetic performance, proving that one does not need a major label salary to be a rock star. He saved



Matt King sings vocals for Japandroids at Firebird.

Phot: Ahmad Aljurryed / The Current

The show began with a set from Philly natives Swearin', who offered catchy, muscular power pop in the vein of Ash and The Breeders. Although the blankets of fuzz made it difficult to dissect the sneered vocals, they sounded largely like the confessions of a 20-something burnout: why college is overrated, why parents suck, why Philadelphia is awesome, etc. While many groups in this vein would be content to plunk out the same two-to-three-minute chords-a-plenty ear candy, Swearin' added some progressive textures to their start-stop dynamics that made them a compelling listen. It is worth noting that the members of Swearin' each

powerful for their hardware. Minutes into their set, Prowse broke his kick pedal, but fortunately, King, clearly an expert entertainer, quickly belted out a clutch of lame jokes and one-liners to keep the audience occupied. To commemorate their first St. Louis gig in years, the group opted to crawl through their entire catalog instead of simply re-treading their latest release, "Celebration Rock." Given that Japandroids is still a group in their infancy, this crawl was limited to two studio albums and a singles collection, but the audience clearly relished the opportunity to belt along the "whoa oh-oh" choruses of Japandroids'

his signature, show-stopping move—leaping atop Prowse's drum kit and staring his partner down during a furious guitar solo—for a fittingly grand finale. Although there is always a certain expectation for a band on the run to give a shameless plug to their latest tour stop, King and Prowse were never patronizing in their St. Louis psych-ups. Although the guys could have easily settled for a token "how we feeling tonight, St. Louis?" the charming King offered a spirited diatribe against the NHL after responding to a crowd member's heckles about the Japandroids' hometown hockey team, the Vancouver (continued on page 6)

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Crimeline

BURGLARY – UNIVERSITY MEADOWS

Nov. 2, 3:10 p.m. Report # 12-01

A student’s apartment was found with a front and bedroom door unlocked. It appeared someone had been eating in the apartment; unknown if anything was taken. Disposition: Investigation will continue when student resident returns.

LOST OR STOLEN LICENSE PLATE – WEST DRIVE

Nov. 6, 3:45 p.m. Report # 12-526

An UMSL staff member reported the theft of their front license plate. Disposition: Report taken.

ASSAULT – CLARK HALL

Nov. 7, 11 a.m. Report # 12-527

Two students were involved in a fight. One was conveyed to a hospital for treatment of minor injuries. Investigation continuing. Disposition: Report taken.

What’s Current

Monday, November 26

Psychology Department Colloquium

Aneeta Rattan, Ph.D., Post-Doctoral Research Scholar, Department of Psychology, Stanford University, speaks on “How Can Be Smart? Beliefs About the Potential for High Intelligence,” 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. in 443 Benton Hall. For information, contact Jean Mayo at 314-516-5393.

One-Night Volleyball

Campus Rec’s Volleyball Tournament, with divisions for men’s and women’s teams, 7 - 10 p.m. in Mark Twain Rec Center gym. Sign up by calling Rec office by 4 p.m. For information, contact Campus Recreation Office, (203 Mark Twain) at 314-516-5326.

Tuesday, November 27

Student Chamber Music Concert

Department of Music student ensembles will perform a variety of classical to contemporary pieces, 7:30 p.m. in Lee Theater of Touhill Performing Arts Center. For information, contact Touhill Ticket Office at 314-516-4949.

Wednesday, November 28

The “I” Declarations of Identity

Students are invited to present original or favorite works on the concept of identity, up to 5 minutes in reading time, and make donations to support the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation, 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. in SGA Chambers, 3rd Floor of the Millennium Student Center. Registration required by emailing Elizabeth at eae4z7@mail.umsl.edu. For information, contact Adie Bennett at 314-516-5013

Protect Your Balls

Colleges Against Cancer’s annual Protect Your Balls Dodgeball Tournament for testicular and prostate cancers awareness, 6 - 10 p.m. in Mark Twain Gym. Pre- registration was required by November 16. For information, contact Brandi Grieshaber at 314-516-5291.

Dance Series: Modern Dance

UPB’s learn to dance dance series concludes with “Modern Dance,” 7 - 9 p.m. in Pilot House in MSC. For information, contact Shatera Davis or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

One-Night Indoor Soccer

‘King of the Court’ Indoor Soccer Tourney, 7 - 10 p.m. in Mark Twain Rec Center Gym. Pre-register with Campus Rec Office before 4 p.m.. For information, contact Campus Recreation Office at 314-516-5326

Mon



High: 50
Low: 34

Tue



High:55
Low: 36

Wed



High: 59
Low: 39

Thu



High: 65
Low: 45

Fri



High: 67
Low: 46

Sat



High: 64
Low: 47

Sun



High: 68
Low: 48

Your weekly calendar of campus events. “What’s Current” is a free service for student organizations. Submissions must be turned in by 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication; first-come, first-served. Listings may be edited for length and style. E-mail event listings to thecurrenttips@umsl.edu, with the subject “What’s Current.” No phone or written submissions.

Piano Studio Recital

University Piano Studio concert features the students of Alla Voskoboynikova playing Debussy, Ravel, Prokofiev, others, 7:30 p.m. in Lee Theater of Touhill Performing Arts Center. For information, contact Touhill Ticket Office at 314-516-4949.

Thursday, November 29

Giving Thanks through Cultures

An opportunity to explore different cultures represented on campus through food, music and dance performances, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in MSC Century Rms A & B. For information, contact Rochelle DeClue at 516-5532.

Irish Poetry Reading by Eamon Grennan

Dublin native Eamon Grennan, who teaches in the graduate writing program at Columbia University, reads selected poems, 12:30- 1:45 p.m. in 331 Social Sciences & Business Building. For information, contact Bob Ell at 314-516-7299.

Bingo Study Break Party

Take a break from your studies with bingo, fun, food and prizes, sponsored by Campus Rec, 7 p.m. at the Provincial House on South Campus. For information, contact Campus Recreation Office at 314-516-5326.

Smoothie Night

Make your own free smoothies, 7 - 9 p.m. in Oak Hall kitchen. For information, contact Scott Morrissey or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

Friday, November 30

Psychology Department Colloquium

Adam Augustine, Ph.D.. Post-Doctoral Research Associate University of Rochester, Department of Clinical & Social Sciences In Psychology, speaks on “Affect Regulation: Predictors of Effectiveness and Underlying Mechanisms,” 10 - 11 a.m. in 101 Benton. For information, contact Jean Mayo at 314-516-5393.

Kyo-Shin-An Arts presents Kammerraku

Kyo-Shin-An string quartet performs Kammerraku, commissioned works for string quartet, in concert, 8 p.m. in Lee Theater of Touhill Performing Arts Center. Concert also features Arianna String Quartet. For information, contact Touhill Ticket Office at 314-516-4949.

Experience St. Louis: Sports Fusion

Meet in front of Provincial House at 9 pm for bus for UPB outing to Sports Fusion. Returns 12:30 am. Bus and admission are both free of charge, \$5 deposit required at time of sign up will be refunded at event. For information, contact Charle McDonald or other UPB member at 314-516-5531.

THEFT – MILLENNIUM STUDENT CENTER

Nov. 13, 11:35 a.m. Report # 12-536

An UMSL student reported the theft of an I-pod from the dining area in the MSC. Disposition: Report taken.

THEFT – EXPRESS SCRIPTS HALL

Nov. 13, 1:45 p.m. Report # 12-537

An UMSL staff member reported the theft of their new parking decal between Oct. 28 & Nov. 13. Disposition: Report taken.

TRESPASSING – MARK TWAIN GYM

Nov. 13, 8:23 p.m. Report # 12-539

Two non-students were escorted from Mark Twain gym. Disposition: Report taken.

THEFT – OAK HALL

Nov. 7, 1:30 p.m. Report # 12-528

An UMSL student reported the theft of 17 pairs of socks left in a laundry room between 9 p.m. Nov. 5 and 10 a.m. Nov. 6. Disposition: Report taken.

THEFT – LOT D

Nov. 9, 4:35 p.m. Report # 12-530

An UMSL student reported a parking permit stolen from their vehicle on Nov. 1 between 12:30 p.m. and 4:45 p.m.

AUTO ACCIDENT LEAVING THE SCENE – WEST DRIVE GARAGE

Nov. 12, 8:09 p.m. Report # 12-534

An UMSL student returned to their parked car and found damage to their vehicle. Disposition: Report taken.

News

Book fair opens Gender Studies’s new home

HUNG NGUYEN
Staff Writer

For several years, powered by book donations from different sources on and off campus, the Gender Studies Program has hosted a book fair in an effort introduce students to the program and also to get to know students currently in the program. This year, the fair was hosted on Nov. 2-3 inside the program’s brand-new home across from

Students got a chance to get a few great books to take home, and the fair was an effective way of advertising.

the Department of English and History on the fourth floor of Lucas Hall.

Students got a chance to get a few great books to take home, and the fair was an effective way of advertising.

Professors were able to benefit from the experience, too. “What I like about the book fair is that it enables me to talk to and meet students on common ground,” Dr. Kathleen Nigro, Department of English and Gender Studies Program adviser. Nigro said that she enjoys speaking to students about books they both may like and getting to know them without the hierarchy of the classroom to decrease the traditional classroom power distance.

Part of the book fair was a collection and raffle to help a homeless single mother, which was an example of the many collaborative efforts of the program with the community to promote service and practical applications of theory in serving humanity. Though different courses will incorporate service learning in different degrees, service appears to be a significant component of the program. After completing requisite coursework, students are encouraged to intern at different community centers that serve high-risk, needy populations in

a variety of fields. Dr. Sally Ebest, Department of English and the Gender Studies Program director, said: “We’re really gender, race and class. We want students to not only learn the theory about these topics, but how to apply them in real-life situations.” “Gender studies is not an ‘ivory-tower’ discipline,” Ebest said. “I can’t think of any profession that an understanding of human behavior and relationships will not complement. Service learning is important to me, and I try to incorporate it as a way for college students to connect or re-connect

with their community. Sometimes the university is sort of isolated from the rest of the community surrounding it. Sometimes, students forget that they have the chance to go to college because they have had opportunities others may not have

had. It’s a great privilege, and to me privilege comes not with power, but with responsibility, a responsibility to do good for others. Service learning gives students a chance to re-discover their humility and dampens their m a y b e

heightened sense of self-worth amidst intellectual experience.”

Even more inviting is the program’s interdisciplinary nature. Students may fulfill requirements by taking courses that cross-list in the Departments of

English, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, Psychology and more, depending on the course topic. Students do not have to take “extra” classes that they do not need, and the program is an un-intimidating 18 credit hours that can be tailored to the students career interests.

Nigro and her “America’s Slave Narratives” class will be hosting an open reading on the concepts of identity and personhood on Nov. 28 at 11 a.m. in the SGA Chambers. They will also

be collecting money in any denomination to support the Dred Scott Heritage Foundation at this event.

New combined tuition and fee plan vote set for Nov. 30

(continued from page 1)

and attempt to address any student concerns. The assembly will meet again for the committee to present their findings. In either case, both assembly and committee recommendations will be presented to University of Missouri System officials.

The Current was unable to reach the administration for further comment over Fall break.

The SGA General Assembly will resume

deliberations on Nov. 30 at 12:30 p.m. in the SGA Chambers on the third floor of the Millennium Student Center. Students who are not SGA representatives but are currently enrolled at UMSL are welcome at SGA Assembly meetings, and UMSL students are encouraged to express their opinions about this issue.

... if the assembly votes in the affirmative, the opinions will be presented to Chancellor Tom George, who will then make his recommendation to the Board of Curators for further action. If the vote is negative, the committee will reconvene and attempt to address any student concerns, and the assembly will meet again for the committee to present their findings.

Turn to page 7 for The Current’s take on this crucial issue.

Science Matters column: Post-election, where are the science issues?

CATE MARQUIS
Editor-in-Chief

Now that the election slogans are fading, can we please deal with some of the real problems facing the country? Not just the “fiscal cliff,” but matters where basic modern science and reality should prevail to help us avoid disasters and human harm?

Science issues rarely surfaced during the recent political season, yet a couple of science-related topics were frequently in the news: Superstorm Sandy and the growing fungal meningitis outbreak traced to contaminated injectable steroids. Both point to larger issues related to science.

Superstorm Sandy and the havoc it dealt to the Northeast pointed out the need to improve our infrastructure to cope with extreme weather events. No single extreme weather event can be attributed to global warming and climate change, just as a particular homerun cannot be tied to a baseball player’s use of steroids, as one expert put it. But increasingly frequent and stronger weather events are among the changes predicted with climate change. Superstorm Sandy’s unusual path has been attributed in part to warmer seas, which sent it north along the Atlantic coast and allowed it to combine with a nor’easter, forming a hybrid storm. We should not assume this will be the only one.

Warmer seas, as well as polar melting, have contributed to higher sea levels, which are expected to continue to rise. Coastal areas will be faced with a choice: hardening infrastructure and making other adaptations to higher sea levels and stronger storms or continually cleaning-up and rebuilding after weather-related disasters. Those who complain about the costs of dealing with climate change rarely consider the ever-increasing costs of dealing with weather-related disasters that climate change may bring. Leaving aside the political debate on climate, we have received a taste of what to expect if nothing is done to prepare for future extreme weather events. Our power infrastructure needs updating. Coastal communities need to plan to protect or abandon low-lying areas. Preparing to deal with future extreme weather challenges will cost money, but it also holds the potential to create new jobs and spark new innovations. Facing facts and adapting now is more cost-effective than simply rebuilding after every disaster, to say nothing

of the human costs.

The other big news story running concurrent with the election campaigning was the widening outbreak of fungal meningitis cases linked to the contaminated injectable steroids produced by one company in Massachusetts. That company was operating as a “compounding pharmacy” but shipping drugs to hospitals and clinics across the country. Apart from the issue raised by the poorly-defined “compounding pharmacy” designation, this story points to serious problems with our drug safety policies. We have had laws in place for decades regulating drug safety, but this incident has called into question the reliability of inspections and the Food Drug Administration. Compounding pharmacies are supposed to prepare drugs especially tailored to the doctor’s prescription, creating a preparation not commercially available. Instead, this company, like several others, was a de facto drug manufacturer exploiting a regulatory loophole that allowed it to avoid standard FDA drug safety regulations and inspections.

This health disaster followed a series of food contamination outbreaks. This summer, salmonella- contaminated cantaloupes killed two people and sickened 141 in 20 states a year after listeria-contaminated melons killed at least 30 and sickened 146 more. Both disasters spotlighted weaknesses in our food safety system.

Both issues raise serious questions about our food and drug policies and FDA effectiveness. Clearly, something is wrong, but less regulation is unlikely to be the solution. While a certain segment constantly complains about too much regulation, these troubling incidents point to inadequate oversight and too little regulation. A number of people have pointed to outdated methods and too few science-based procedures and inspections as part of the trouble with the FDA.

In both cases—coping with extreme weather disasters and food and drug safety concerns—modernizing to embrace current scientific and technological innovations offer real-world answers. Using real, present-day science is cost-effective in the long run and saves human lives. Continual short-term fixes, ineffective partial solutions that preserve this quarter’s profits and “kick the can down the road” attitudes cost the country as a whole much more.

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Features

Japanese Hogaku and western classical unite for this Friday’s Touhill performance

PAUL PEANICK
Staff Writer

Kammerraku, an exciting, unique fusion of western classical and traditional Japanese Hogaku music, is coming to the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center on Nov. 30. Sponsored by the University of Missouri-St. Louis Department of International Studies and Japanese non-profit Kyo-Shin-An Arts, Kammerraku promises to be an unforgettable experience.

“Kammerraku requires a great deal of skill to play well. One must have knowledge of both Japanese and western classical music,” James Nyoraku Scheffler, artistic director of Kyo-Shin-An and grand master Shakuhachi musician, said.

Both western classical and Japanese traditional music have unique instruments, construction and historical periods. The Shakuhachi, or bamboo flute, is a traditional Japanese instrument with a long history. It made its first appearance in Japan in the sixth century, an import from Chinese musical tradition. Once considered outdated, the Shakuhachi is experiencing a revival worldwide, particularly in Japan.

James Nyoraku Scheffler will assume his role as a champion of the Shakuhachi during this Friday’s Kammerraku performance. Scheffler is one of the few non-native Japanese grand masters of the Shakuhachi and has been playing the instrument for over 34 years.

Scheffler will be part of a troika of Japanese virtuosos performing at the Touhill. Along with his Shakuhachi, Kammerraku will feature the Japanese 20-string Koto and the three-stringed Shamisen.

The Koto is a large stringed instrument that dates back to sixteenth-century Japan. Measuring over 70 inches long, the Koto usually has between 13 and 25 strings, which are plucked using three finger picks. For Kammerraku, the 20-stringed Koto will be in the capable hands of Yumi Reikano Kurosawa.

Kurosawa has been playing the Koto since age 3. Born and raised in Japan, she is a member of the Hougakuten Concert, Tokyo. Kurosawa has toured in Russia, Canada, Malaysia and the U.S. After moving to New York in 2002, she has appeared in many New York City venues, including the Julliard School and the Apollo Sound Stage.

Like the Koto, the Shamisen is also a stringed instrument,

its name literally translating to “three strings.” The instrument most closely resembles a western guitar or banjo. The Shamisen arrived in Okinawa, Japan in the sixteenth century. Visually, sonically and aesthetically pleasing, the Shamisen is often considered the national instrument of Japan. The Shamisen is often synonymous with the dance dramas and elaborate makeup of Japanese Kabuki theater.

Perhaps the best way to describe the sound of the Shamisen is through allusion. Nagauta, or “love song” in Japanese, refers to music written for Kabuki, the principle instrument of which is the romantic and noble Shamisen.

Japanese master musician Yoko Kimura will play this lovely lute during Kammerraku. A graduate of Tokyo University of the Arts, Kimura is a successful musician and vocalist. Always an ardent supporter of contemporary music, some of her more notable university performances have included Harvard, Texas A&M and City University in New York City. She has recorded numerous contemporary Shamisen works and currently teaches at the Institute of Contemporary Music for Traditional Japanese Instruments.

For the Kammerraku performance, Kyo-Shin-An Arts

has commissioned original pieces from some of today’s top composers. Original works by Daron Hagen, Paul Moravec, James Scheffler and Somei Satoh will come to life in the capable hands of the three Hogaku players. The multit talented Arianna String Quartet will accompany the performers as well, complementing the traditional Japanese instruments with their western counterparts.

Kyo-Shin-An is a non-profit organization founded in 2008. KSA runs at the behest of artistic director Scheffler and his wife Meg Fagan, KSA’s producer. KSA is committed to spreading appreciation of Japanese instruments in western classical music through commissioning, facilitating and producing new works for Koto, Shamisen and Shakuhachi.

“The purpose of shows like Kammerraku is to help integrate into mainstream classical music these three Hogaku instruments,” Scheffler said. “We are gradually going to see more works and a greater prevalence of Shamisen, Shakuhachi and Koto in Japan and abroad. That’s really the goal of Kyo-Shin-An Arts.”

Traumatic event changes student’s life

ANYA GLUSHKO
Features Editor

Some college students are not sure about their choice of major. However, some have already found their educational paths to help them to reach their goals. Teighlor Barnes, sophomore, nursing, has found her calling.

“When you love what you do, it doesn’t feel like a real job to you. You feel fulfillment; the only way you could be best at your job is if you’ve got passion for it,” Barnes said.

Barnes came from St. Louis Community College in Florissant Valley. She chose University of Missouri-St. Louis because it was convenient and affordable. “SLU,

not have much of a choice ... I got hurt, and I got rushed to the hospital ... It was a blur. I can’t remember the sequence of events,” Barnes said.

Barnes was rushed to the nearest hospital to be prepared for surgery. “To me it was a traumatic experience, and everything was so fast-paced. As soon as I got hit, the ambulance was there very quickly. I had paramedics rushing to me ... [The doctors] were sticking me with needles. People were cutting off my clothes. It was horrible,” Barnes said.

Barnes was inspired by how the nurses treated her. She hoped that one day she could return their kindness to other patients in need.

“Doctors come in, and they do what’s necessary, but nurses are the voice of the patient. Doctors cure you physically, and nurses aid you mentally... They will soothe you; they will make you feel comfortable and happy.” — Barnes

Washington University and Mizzou have really expensive nursing programs ... My mom is a nurse, too. She told me that UMSL is a good choice because it’s affordable. Graduate students from UMSL had one of the highest pass rates of NCLEX [The National Council Licensure Examination, which is a necessary requirement for registered nurses],” Barnes said.

Barnes works a part-time job and is guaranteed a spot in clinicals, which makes it possible for her to go to UMSL.

“I work a desk assistant job to be able to afford living on campus. I like living here because I get the opportunity to get involved in campus activities. I take advantage of different events, and I get a chance to socialize and meet new people. I was never involved in anything during high school, and I wanted my college experience to be different,” Barnes said.

Barnes has always had passion for health-related careers. “When I was a kid, I used to want to be a veterinarian because I love animals. But I realized it was too much responsibility for me,” Barnes said.

In October of last year, Barnes was hit by a car while crossing a busy street. This event changed Barnes’s life and greatly affected her future career choice. “Crossing Lindbergh was the only way I could get to college, so I did

“After the surgery, I remember waking up in the bed in my room, and the nurses were so kind to me ... I was crying; it was sporadic. I went from calm to hysterical states. And the nurses were there every time I needed them ... I couldn’t do anything on my own, but whenever I requested their assistance, they didn’t get attitudes; they didn’t get frustrated. They would tell me, ‘It’s okay. That’s what we’re here for.’ They showed compassion for me; they made me feel like I was the only patient at the hospital. Doctors come in, and they do what’s necessary, but nurses are the voice of the patient. Doctors cure you physically, and nurses aid you mentally ... They will soothe you; they will make you feel comfortable and happy,” Barnes said.

Barnes is following her family’s footsteps, and she is confident about her future plans.

“Several women in my family are nurses. I was influenced by them, but I also feel like nursing is what I was meant to do,” Barnes said.

Barnes wants to help people. She plans to become a successful nurse. She plans to start off working at the local hospital and later advance to travel nursing after gaining some skills and work experience.

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A&E

...a group straggling in late was met with a spotlight, an alarm going off and a playfully scolding “warning—late arrivals,” setting the show’s silly, interactive comic tone and hinting at the silly, the weird and the unexpected to come.



The crowd plays around with the Blue Man Group in Fox Theater.

Photo credit: ©Paul Kolnik

Blue Man Group glows at Fox with humor, invention and intelligence

CATE MARQUIS
Editor-in-Chief

They are bald, they are blue and they are highly entertaining.

The Blue Man Group, a trio of three mute, blue-painted bald men in loose-fitting black outfits, deliver a color-drenched, multimedia show that mixes music, performance art and comedy. At long last, the Blue Man Group brings their unique kind of entertainment to St. Louis Fox Theater for a run through Dec. 2.

A must-see show for those traveling to Chicago, it is a delight to see the group perform locally. The original Blue Man Group—Chris Wink, Philip Stanton and Matt Goldman—have now spun their creation into troupes of blue men who perform in various cities and traveling shows. The Blue Men at the Fox are Kalen Allmandinger, Shane Andries, James Marlowe, Patrick Newton, Russell Rinker and Chris Smith in various combinations.

The crowd was big and energized at the Nov. 20 opening night performance. The warm-up for the show was a pair of scrolling LED signs hung above the Fox stage. Messages got the audience in the mood with humor, a little audience

participation and a comic reminder that the show had no intermission. Once the Blue Man Group appeared on the multilevel stage set, a group straggling in late was met with a spotlight, an alarm going off and a playfully scolding “warning—late arrivals,” setting the show’s silly, interactive comic tone and hinting at the silly, the weird and the unexpected to come.

The show is a mix of inventive comedy, social commentary-laced performance art and music with a heavy emphasis on drumming. The humor veered from silly to sardonic. The Blue Men do not speak and typically don intense, staring expressions, making them seem like alien beings exploring a strange new world as they engage in comic antics, drum or manipulate giant props.

The Blue Man Group started out with a drumming bit that bounced glowing, neon-colored liquids high in the air and occasionally onto the drummers. They followed that up with a bit that featured three enormous smart phones filling up the stage as they mocked multitasking and pop culture distractions simultaneously. The segment was smart, witty and inventive. Object transformation and absurdities kept the audience both entertained and thinking.

While the Blue Men do not speak, voice-over commentary or instructions to the audience were sometimes broadcast. Two trios of musicians, decked out in neon skeleton attire under black lights, played from scaffolding set high above either side of the stage. The colorful light-show sets changed frequently to give the Blue Men new playgrounds to exploit.

Two people were plucked out of the audience to be part of the show, one becoming part of a comic bit playing with food and the other taking part in performance art poking fun at modern art techniques. The show’s finale gave the audience mock lessons in rock concert dance moves with a giant stick-figure puppet before sending giant glowing balls bouncing around the theater.

The Blue Man Group has an all-ages appeal, and the group does have some children’s programs, which may explain the significant number of children in the audience on opening night. While much of the show at the Fox was appropriate for all ages, it also had some more adult material.

The Blue Man Group is inventive, weird (in a good way), funny, a little bit thought-provoking and decidedly entertaining. Do not miss the chance to catch this unique show while it is at the Fox through Dec. 2.



David Prose on drums for Japandroids at Firebird.

Phot: Ahmad Aljurryed / The Current

Japandroids at The Firebird

(continued from page 1)

reliable crowd-pleaser.

True to their penchant for covering their favorite cult bands, Japandroids closed their set with fuzzed-out tributes to Welsh noise rockers Mclusky (“To Hell With Good Intentions”) and the legendary country-fried punk outfit The Gun Club (“For the Love of Ivy”).

Everything about Japandroids screams “live band.” From their hyperkinetic stage presence to their penchant for shattering speakers, touring is not simply a means for King and Prowse to repay production debts to their label; it is their raison d’etre. Although “Celebration

Rock” was an excellent studio album, there is truly no substitute for having one’s bones rattled in person by beefy hymns like “Adrenaline Nightshift,” “Continuous Thunder” and “The House That Heaven Built.” Virtually every song was greeted with a Pabst-fueled roar of approval from the audience, a sweaty, sticky tide of college students in the throes of fall break madness. Indeed, with all due respect to Bob Seger, an evening like that is the very definition of old time rock and roll. Grade: A-

Aguilera’s new ‘Lotus’ panders to Gaga fans

HUNG NGUYEN
Staff Writer

After Maroon 5’s “Overexposed,” audiophiles anxiously watched to see if the other artists they fell in love with for their unique styles would jump on the bandwagon of pop clichés. As a voice of her generation, it was expected that pop-soul queen Christina Aguilera would rise above this and stick to her guns. Aguilera once famously stated in defense of rapper-singer contestant Moses Stone of NBC’s “The Voice,” “You need to be versatile in this industry. ‘The Voice’ doesn’t need to be some auto-tune, over-ad-libbed, powerhouse vocalist.” Aguilera’s new album “Lotus,” however, indicates that she is not exactly practicing what she preaches.

“Lotus” is another triumph for Aguilera’s voice—no pop artist could ever rival her soprano—but not for her creativity.

It is very difficult to distinguish “Lotus” from any of the recent trends in mainstream pop radio. “Around the World” and “Circles” will likely cause Aguilera fans to do a double-take. Tracks like “Red Hot Kinda Love,” “Let There Be Love” and “Your Body” are great songs to move your hips to, but they fall short of the depth and power Aguilera fans have been accustomed to from their idol.

Although most pop music predictably relies on sex as a source material, Aguilera has always been able to transcend the genre clichés and present a classier and more original version of sexuality than other innuendo-prone artists. She takes the same approach with “Lotus,” referring to it as “a very multi-layered, very heartfelt record.” In an interview last month, Aguilera claimed that “Lotus” is her opportunity to “share all the different sides of me, as a woman, and as a creator and an artist. Part of that is being a mom. Part of that is sexuality. Part of that is vulnerability. Part of that is aggression and angst. All those pieces make me who I am.”

From statements such as these, it is very clear that “Lotus” is intended to be a revival of Aguilera’s career. It is an album created to capitalize on a generation of listeners who were not around when chart-topping hits like “Fighter” and “Beautiful” were released.

Disappointingly, “Lotus” shows an artist who is struggling to stay true to herself but also cater to a post-Gaga audience. The prowess Aguilera demonstrated to pop listeners in the early 2000s is still strongly present, if somewhat compromised. Though this effort is substantially better than her prior release, “Bionic,” it pales in comparison to her previous work.

The album is still a good effort, and is by no means a failure. In the stripped-down, powerful ballad “Blank Page,” Aguilera uses nothing but piano and her Grammy-winning vocals to once again enrapture listeners. “Army of Me” and “Sing For Me” are two new, great self-empowerment anthems. Soulful, heart-wrenching “Best of Me” is well-executed and reflects on the emotional pain Aguilera has overcome in recent years. She even recruits two fellow coaches from “The Voice,” with Cee Lo Green appearing on “Make the World Move” and Blake Shelton collaborating for “Just a Fool,” her first successful country single.

Fans who still want to hear their Xtina sing her heart out will find enough songs to satiate their six-year wait for her signature soul-pouring swells. Some may even interpret “Lotus” as a successful transition into the 2012 pop scene. For now, those songs represent a distraction, and the album lacks cohesion as a single work. “Lotus” is another triumph for Aguilera’s voice—no pop artist could ever rival her soprano—but not for her creativity.

Opinion

TRIO COUNTERPOINT

Let seniors go first

Upperclassmen should be given the opportunity to register for classes before underclassman and any other new students. The first reason is that by doing this, the school is showing respect to its continuing students. Like a point card at the grocery store, continuing patronage should be rewarded with additional benefits.

Instances like this used to be seen throughout numerous institutions, like high schools. If you were on a team, you listened and respected the upperclassmen because of their seniority; certain hallways and days were given to upperclassmen to enjoy. In business meetings, it's the higher-ups who speak first.

Some may believe this unfair, but these people may not be considering the practical reasons behind this favoritism. New students will most likely not be taking the same classes as a junior or senior in college. A practical reason for this is that upperclassmen in college are upperclassmen because they are farther along in their degree programs. This means that they have fewer classes to choose from that will apply to their degree programs. While new students may not get into one or two classes they had hoped for because of the upperclassmen choosing first, they have numerous options to choose from simply because they are new and have many classes to undergo to complete their degrees.

You might be a little miffed that as a freshman you weren't able to take Holocaust Literature because the upperclassmen got to pick first, but a senior would be outraged if the final class needed for a degree was filled

to the brim with underclassmen who had numerous other choices available to them.

This practice is also beneficial to the classroom.

Upperclassmen know through past experiences which

[Upperclassmen] have fewer classes to choose from that will apply to their degree programs. While new students...

have numerous options to choose from simply because they are new and have many classes to undergo to complete their degrees.

teachers and teaching styles work best for them and can choose their classes accordingly to make the learning experience go more smoothly. Underclassmen need to experience numerous teachers to see which teaching style they are able to learn best with.

Letting upperclassmen choose classes first is a good process for keeping academics running smoothly.

Our Opinion column: UMSL should contest new fee proposal

University of Missouri-St. Louis students have another chance to vote—and ask questions—on a sweeping change that will impact the cost of going to college at UMSL.

The university is considering a change on how it collects fees for classes. At present, students are charged tuition and mandatory fees by the credit hour, with additional supplemental fees. The university is proposing a plan to combine fees and tuition into a single charge applied to all students. Students should take note and ask questions now, as the proposal will affect college costs in the future, perhaps starting next year.

The Student Government Association meets Friday for a student vote on the proposed plan to combine tuition and fees into a single, mandatory charge per credit hour. Some fees that are now optional, such as parking, will be included in this new charge. Other changes are involved for students who take courses online. It is unclear how new fees, such as the one for the new fitness center, due to be added in 2015, will be treated—if they will be automatically added to the cost or if they will need further approval.

The SGA meeting is set for 12:30 p.m. on Nov. 30 in the SGA Chambers on the third floor of the Millennium Student Center. All UMSL students are welcome.

The plan was presented to students through the SGA, but the plan was crafted by the administration, with some input from a SGA committee. The administration is offering UMSL students a chance to speak out on this matter through the Nov. 30 SGA meeting, although what weight that input will be given in the final decision is unclear.

The plan was presented and some questions fielded at

the last SGA meeting on Nov. 2. However, many questions were not fully resolved, and new questions have arisen.

A story in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch on June 27 stated, “Students will pay a fee of \$19.25 per credit hour, with a cap of 12 hours each semester.” Another Post-Dispatch story Aug. 27 noted that the costs to UMSL students could be as much as \$231 per semester.

These are not small amounts to most UMSL students.

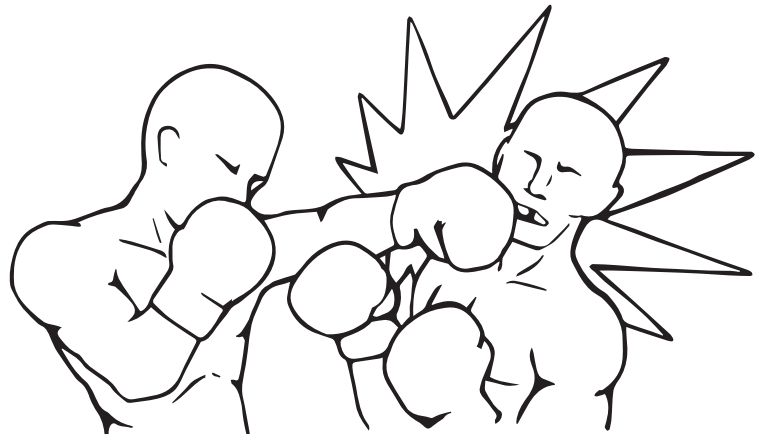
If you never plan to use the fitness center, you will not be able to opt out, just as those who bike to campus or ride the MetroLink will still be charged for parking. On the other hand, a handout distributed at the Nov. 2 meeting noted that it would be easier for students to gauge the true cost of attending if a single amount were given. The single fee approach would ensure funding for programs by requiring all students to pay the fees. Whether students

would still get a breakdown of the various fees is also unclear.

UMSL students should make themselves heard on this matter. There are several questions still unanswered, and now is the time for students to ask them. Therefore, we urge all UMSL students to attend the SGA meeting, ask questions and express your opinion on this change.

Otherwise, like the last election, don't complain if you do not like the result.

The single fee approach would ensure funding for programs by requiring all students to pay the fees.



Registration time should be GPA-based

Registering for classes is one of the most important things students have the opportunity to do each semester. Choosing the right classes to give one the best advantage and classes that will look great together on a transcript is an opportunity that should not be undervalued. Different students treat the registration process differently.

Some make advising appointments as soon as the course listings for the next semester are released in order to ensure that their visions of their transcripts will come to fruition, while other students care significantly less about which classes they take and register for courses based on when they want to wake up in the morning and which professors are the most lenient. The bottom line is that since students sometimes sign up for courses for the wrong reasons, courses fill up for the wrong reasons. This can leave those who are genuinely concerned about their transcripts waitlisted or locked out of a necessary course that is filled with students who selected it only for convenience.

The only way to rectify this problem and help ensure that the students to whom the final product of their transcripts is paramount get first pick at each new

semester's available courses is to alter registration policy. Instead of opening registration to seniors, then juniors, then sophomores, registration should first be opened to those with grade point averages above 3.6, then to students with high middling grade point averages, then low middling, and finally, the students with the lowest grade point averages.

Rewarding students who have the best grades with the opportunity to select classes first is only fair. These are the students who indicate that they care most about their transcripts, so it makes sense for their carrot to be an opportunity to have greater control over their transcripts come registration time. Students who are unwilling to put forth enough effort to get certain grades should understand why they did not earn the earliest registration slot.

As for the myth of seniors who absolutely, desperately need one specific, particular class to graduate? They, not conscientious juniors with their sights already on graduate school, should have to appeal to academic affairs and the professor to let them in.

Students who earn good grades have also earned the right to control their academic destiny.

Student Abroad column Culture shock hurts

RACHELLE BRANDEL

Staff Writer

When I first heard the words “culture shock,” I thought the term meant that I would be shocked to find a squat toilet when opening the bathroom door or that I'd get frustrated from using chopsticks. Even the book “Culture Shock: Japan” only listed the many customs that Japan had.

In reality, culture shock turned out to be something I couldn't have anticipated.

Culture shock, also known as transitional shock, is defined by dictionary.com as “a state of bewilderment and distress experienced by an individual who is suddenly exposed to a new, strange or foreign social and cultural environment.” This definition just makes me think of a deer in the middle of the road. If I could define it, this is what I'd write: “a state of loneliness and deprivation that causes severe anxiety because moving to a new culture removes all the pillars and comforts one may not have realized one had at home.”

When I decided to come to Japan, I knew that it wouldn't be easy; I had never left home longer than a few weeks and loved my family dearly. But experiencing the culture that I read about in books and watched on TV seemed worth a little homesickness and discomfort.

My first few weeks in Japan, in the culture shock timeframe, were the “honeymoon phase.” I was eager to explore a culture that I had dreamed about, and weekends spent traveling with new people filled every moment with excitement.

But as school started and evenings had to be filled with homework, I soon progressed into the “negotiation phase.” This phase is positively the worst. Suddenly, the days of excitement were filled with frustration as I began to continue the difficult process of learning Japanese. Suddenly, the differences between my culture and my host culture weren't cute and endearing, but a struggle. Suddenly, I began to ask myself, “Why did I even come here?”

But the worst part of my culture shock wasn't something I immediately realized. I began to feel homesick and a little lonely, but I had expected that. What I hadn't expected was my intense desire to return home; I even began planning to leave early. I kept telling myself, “I should have just taken a vacation!”

I began to get angry at the Japanese culture for not continually holding my interest; I began to be bored of Japan, wishing I was back at home preparing for the holidays instead.



But then things took another turn that I didn't realize, one additional problem that was specific for me: my fear of flying. I began to get stuck on my return trip home; I was anxious and afraid of the inevitable flight. I began to hole up in my room, thinking and re-thinking about all the fearful factors of flying. It soon got so intense that I was having anxiety attacks and fatalistic thoughts. I soon began saying, “Why am I here? I'd rather be with those I love if I'm going to die in a few months.”

It was then that I realized something wasn't right. I was afraid of flying, but that fear hadn't kept me from boarding a plane to Japan. I knew that these feelings

Suddenly, I began to ask myself, “Why did I even come here?”

weren't me, so I did a bit of research. I soon found that all the problems I had, every one of them, were symptoms of culture shock.

Back home I had received comfort not only from my family and friends, but from the very way of doing things that most of us don't even realize we do. My culture had given me comfort, and when I began to take in Japan's culture, my mind began to feel anxiety.

Now, I'm not writing about this to turn others off of going abroad. On the contrary, I think one should travel just to experience culture shock.

I say this because studies have shown that people who study abroad and experience culture shock are more likely to better assimilate into changes later in life. This means that the anxiety I've felt trying to assimilate into Japan's culture will make it easier for me to assimilate into a job or lifestyle in the future. Culture shock has given me a wild ride that, while it's gotten better, hasn't stopped. Culture shock has helped me grow as a person.

Comics

JUST A COUPLE DRIFTERS

Christian Kessler



THE UMSL MATH CLUB PRESENTS: PROBLEM OF THE MONTH

Our humble friend Uriah Heep is wrapping a small gift. He has a 4×8 rectangular piece of wrapping paper and he folds it so that one pair of diametrically opposing corners coincide. He wonders, "What is the length of the crease?"

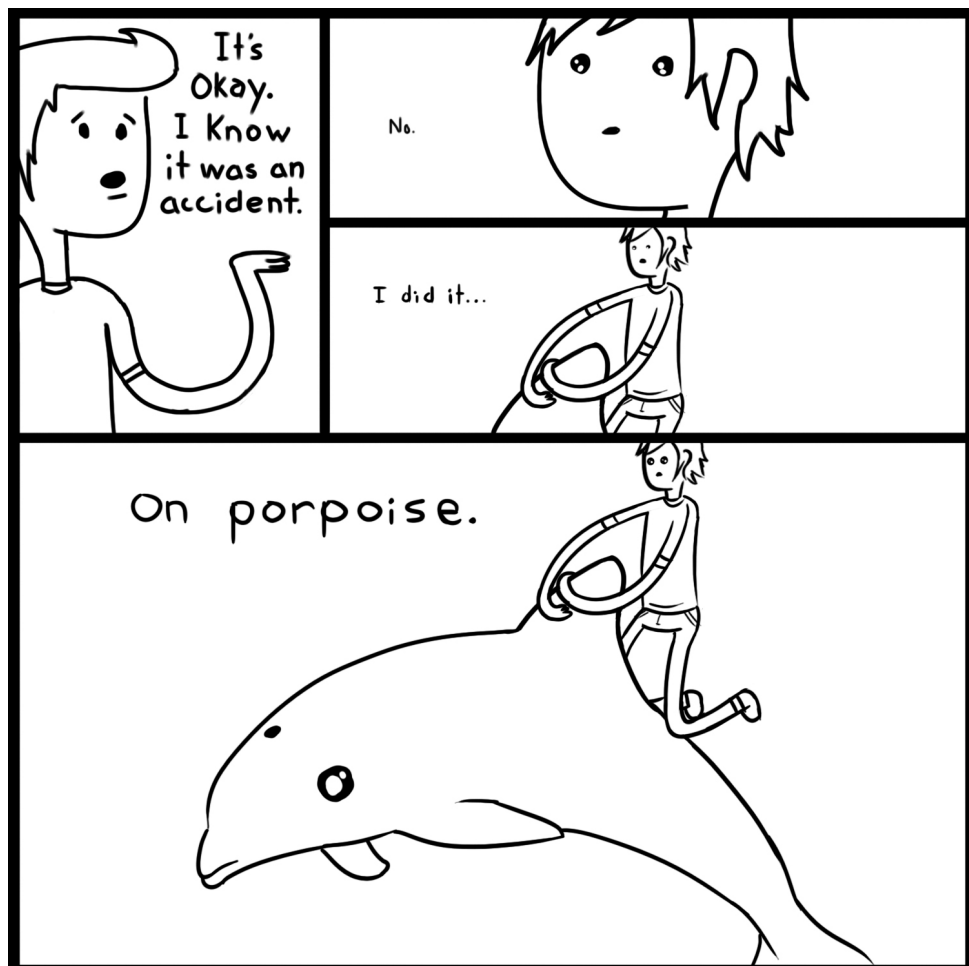
Submit your solution to the problem below by Friday, December 7. **THERE WILL BE PRIZES.** Winners will be announced on the next Problem of the Month. Submit solutions to R. Dotzel in Express Scripts Hall 329.

November Problem solved by: Alex Kerford, Joe Koester and Susan Novak (By the way the answer turns out to be 502,146,957,312,000 or more than 500 trillion. If you are wondering how large is 500 trillion get this—if you count from 1 to 500 trillion pronouncing each number in 1 second it will take you almost 16 million years to finish! Yikes! Are any of you still counting?)

Please note: There will be a Fibonacci Day Festival in the MSC on Monday December 3. There will be games, demonstrations and great fun. Prizes will be available. Stop by and pay homage to this most famous of sequences: 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13...

BRAIN DEAD

Zach McDaniel



Winter Intersession

January 7-19, 2013

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